THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) to (d) A budgetary allocation of Rs. 8264.25 crore has been made for the year 2003-04 for subsidy on urea. This includes Rs. 7555.00 crore for subsidy on indigenous urea and Rs. 709.25 crore on imported urea. It is expected that the above budgetary allocation will be sufficient for making subsidy payments to urea manufacturers and urea importers. In the event of budgetary allocation failling short of the meeting the requirements, additional funds will be sought at the time of making provision for revised estimates.

New drugs price control order

4368. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA :
SHRI M. N. DAS :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangalore High Court has thrown out the new pharma policy ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to defends its position; and

(d) by when Government propose to come out with the new Drugs Price Control Order ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHHATTRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (d) A Public Interest Litigation in Karnataka High Court resulted in an order dated 12-11-2002 which stopped the Government from implementing the price control regime of the Pharmaceutical Policy-2002. Government have filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court against the order of the Karnataka High Court.

Low yield of Bt. Cotton

4369. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Competent Authority is aware of the report "Probe sought into failure of first Bt. Cotton Crop" as appeared in the media ;

(b) if so, the action taken thereupon ;

(c) whether any submission/representation is received from 'Gene Campaign' asking for compensation for the farmers who had suffered because, of the low yield in the Bt. Cotton Plantation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the mandatory regulatory authorities have been set up before the GM crop cultivation;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(h) whether a detailed inquiry will be conducted on the above report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Green peace and some of the other environment activists have alleged low yield of Bt. Cotton in the drought prone areas.

(b) The three Bt. Cotton hybrids have been introducted into the environment only in 2002-2003 and are presently under cultivation in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh. The Bt. gene has been introduced specifically to control bollworm infestation. For the Kharif 2002 season, six Committees were constituted by the Ministry which have visited some of the Bt. Cotton fields. The Committees have observed that the performance of Bt. Cotton is satisfactory in terms of bollworm infestation and reduction in use of pesticide sprays. Further, for the Kharif 2003 season, the Ministry has constituted a Committee to institute a monitoring and verification mechanism for assessment of the performance of Bt. Cotton.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has been set up under Rule 4 of the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 whose approval is mandatory before the GM crop cultivation.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) No separate inquiry is necessary. However, since the GEAC has approved commercial cultivation of Bt. Cotton only for a period of 3 years, its performance would be evaluated during this period. In view of the varying agro climatic conditions, the performance of Bt. Cotton cannot be assessed on one year data.